



## Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request 46

**Date of Meeting:** July 13, 2004

**Date Submitted:** July 7, 2004

**To:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board  
**From:** Parwez Alam, County Administrator  
Tony Park, P.E., Public Works Director  
**Subject:** Board Direction Regarding Deer Lane Drive Drainage Improvements

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**Statement of Issue:**

This item requests Board direction regarding Deer Lane Drive Drainage Improvements.

**Background:**

Commissioner Grippa brought to staff's attention an existing drainage problem at the intersection of Deer Lane Drive and Shantilly Terrace, which is located south of Timberlane Road (Attachment #1). Residents in the area report that during storm events, stormwater overtops the road flooding their property and causing erosion.

Staff has evaluated the situation and can confirm that the existing 24-inch culvert at this location is undersized and should be replaced with two 36-inch culverts. However, the up-sizing of the culverts will overwhelm the downstream conveyance as it exists today, and replacing the culvert would result in a shift of flood impacts from the existing property owners to those downstream.

Staff has evaluated the downstream conveyance (ditch) and determined that it can be improved to handle the flows and deliver them to an acceptable discharge point. This ditch, however, is located on private property and runs alongside a private road serving a limited number of residences. If the County were to acquire the ditch and take responsibility for maintenance, it would need to also acquire the private road for access, and take responsibility for maintenance of same.

The construction cost for the culvert and ditch improvements is estimated at approximately \$250,000. Land acquisition costs are projected to be at least \$125,000, for a total project cost of \$375,000 to \$400,000. This project is currently unbudgeted.

**Analysis:**

Staff is advised that one home has experienced water inside the structure. Other homes are impacted by water running across their property. There are five or six homes that would benefit from this project.

Although the impacts of stormwater leaving County rights-of-way and entering private properties are unfortunate, there are a great number of instances within Leon County similar to this situation. Current County Code provides that any group of homeowners who wish to have their roads and/or drainage systems improved and accepted by the County for perpetual maintenance may petition the County for that action via the 2/3's Program.

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In this instance, the homeowners could petition for drainage improvements only, thereby avoiding the cost of upgrading the existing private road to County standards. The County could then accept maintenance of the road in its existing configuration, but as an access to the drainage system only, not as a County maintained road. If the homeowners chose this process and the \$400,000 project cost were to be shared by six homeowners, the cost per homeowner would be \$66,667. This is, by historical standards, an excessive amount for a homeowner to pay as a share of a 2/3 project.

The County has, in two recent instances, agreed to share in the costs of drainage improvements when a homeowners group agreed to participate by way of a 2/3 project. In the case of the Rainbow Acres 2/3 Project, the County contributed \$360,000 to correct drainage conditions where stormwater left the County right-of-way, and when the Cloudland Drive homeowners promised to participate in a 2/3 roadway project, the County agreed to participate by contributing \$300,000 towards drainage conditions resulting from off-site origins.

Records indicate that the highest share paid to date by participants in the 2/3 program has never exceeded \$10,000. It is not known whether Deer Lane residents are interested in a 2/3 Project, but if their share were limited to \$60,000 (6 lots at \$10,000 each), the balance of the project cost would be unfunded in the amount of \$340,000.

Staff is aware that the City of Tallahassee contributes 50% of the funding to all 2/3 Projects it administers. The Deer Lane issue is another project that suggests that County participation is necessary for the project to move forward and the Board may wish to consider 50% participation at this time.

Staff seeks direction from the Board as to actions that should be taken in this regard.

**Options:**

1. Accept report and direct staff to present the Deer Lane Drainage Project to the homeowners with the homeowners paying the full cost in accordance with current County Code.
2. Accept report and direct staff to present the Deer Lane Drainage project to the homeowners with the County's participation by paying 50% of the cost.
3. Do not accept report.
4. Board Direction.

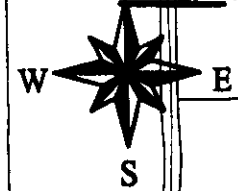
**Recommendation:**

Board Direction.

**Attachments:**

Project Location Map





TIMBERLANE RD

AUDUBON DR

AUDUBON DR

CLOVERDALE DR

DEER LANE DR

N MERIDIAN RD

NEW 24" CROSS DRAIN

EXISTING DITCH TO  
BE RE-GRADED

EXISTING DITCH TO  
BE RE-GRADED

SHANTILLY TER

EXISTING DITCH TO BE  
RE-GRADED AND CONCRETE LINED

REPLACE EXISTING 24"  
CROSS DRAIN WITH  
DBL 36" CROSS DRAIN

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DEER LANE DRIVE

100 0 100 200 300 Feet